

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 16 JUNE 2002

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

MORSE CODE EXAMINERS URGED TO REGISTER

NEW MEMBERS

WRC 2003 CONFERENCE IN DOUBT

ARRL PART 15 STANCE DRAWS INDUSTRY FIRE

RSGB FOUNDATION LICENCE A HIT

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The SARL News Service invites Clubs and individuals to contribute news regarding Amateur Radio to sarlnews@hotmail.com. It will be highly appreciated if it is done in both Afrikaans and English.

Now for the news in detail:

MORSE CODE EXAMINERS URGED TO REGISTER

This is a second and urgent call for persons interested in being CW Examiners to register without delay. All existing examiners' term of office expires at the end of this month, ie. 30 June 2002.

Unless existing/new individuals register timeously, the whole system will grind to a halt. Remember that test results taken by persons not registered with the SARL will not be valid.

The necessary information, as well as relevant application forms are available on the SARL website or by phoning the SARL offices.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR BULLETIN TRANSLATIONS

The weekly SARL bulletins are compiled by volunteers. This is done by combining a variety of items obtained from different sources into bulletins made available in Afrikaans and English.

At present there are only two volunteers and this makes compiling, translating and reading the bulletins a heavy workload.

SARL news needs volunteers for translating the bulletins. If you can translate from English into Afrikaans OR from Afrikaans into English or both, have an e-mail address and can be available to do this translation on Fridays, then we would like to hear from you.

If you can help with this, or are willing to try, contact Fritz ZS6ASF on 012 997 1114 or on 083 304 0028 or by e-mail zs6asf@icon.co.za.

Remember: The deadline for items to be included in the Sunday SARL bulletin is 18:00 on the Thursday.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined the SARL during the past week:

ZR5JMC John Michael Chillek ZS1NQ Bryan Marshall ZR6MDK Dirk Malcolm Kriel ZR2ABK Robert M Bosch ZS5CF Colin Ferguson ZS5BBO Edwin Aubrey Musto

May you have a long and fruitful connection with the SARL.

WRC 2003 CONFERENCE IN DOUBT

The ARRL reported on Monday the 10th of June that Venezuela has withdrawn its invitation for the World Radio Conference in 2003. The location of the conference is now uncertain.

The conference was scheduled to be held in Caracas in June and July 2002. Whether it can be held on the scheduled dates in another location is not yet known. The Venezuelan National Commission of Telecommunications, CONATEL, advised the International Telecommunication Union Secretary-General that it would be unable to host WRC-03 and blamed economic concerns. David Sumner, K1ZZ, who serves as administrative officer for the delegation that will represent the IARU at the conference, said: "Planning for a conference of this size and scope generally takes two to three years. It is a formidable challenge for ITU staff to work with potential host administrations to find a suitable facility for a conference that is supposed to open less than one year from now."

Several issues of importance to radio amateurs are on the conference agenda, including the revision of Article 25 of the International Radio Regulations. This includes the issue of whether to retain the treaty requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency for access to amateur bands below 30MHz. Also on the agenda is the question of harmonization of the 7MHz amateur and broadcasting allocations.

ARRL STANCE ON PART 15 DRAWS INDUSTRY FIRE

An ARRL challenge to the FCC's authority to permit Part 15 unlicensed operation of radio devices that may interfere with licensed services has drawn heavy fire from industry.

The list of those filing opposition comments includes several device makers and

other industry giants, including Apple Computer and Microsoft. Some industry opponents are claiming that the ARRL wants to undo Part 15 altogether and would require individual licensing of such unlicensed devices as garage door openers and cordless telephones.

ARRL General Council Chris Imlay, W3KD, says the industry comments have it all wrong.

The industry assault came in direct response to an ARRL Petition for Reconsideration in a proceeding document to amend Part 15 rules to allow certification of unlicensed, Part 15 equipment in the 24,05 to 24,25 GHz band at field strengths up to 2500mV/m. The FCC first proposed permitting the 24-GHz part 15 devices at the elevated field strengths in 1998 in response to a petition for rule making from Sierra Digital Communications.

The ARRL wants the FCC to reverse a portion of its Order that addresses the Commission's jurisdiction to authorize unlicensed RF devices that pose a significant interference potential to licensed services. The League has made similar points in two other recent rulemaking proceedings, arguing that the FCC is expanding the concept of unlicensed devices far beyond what the Communications Act had in mind.

Amateur is primary at 24.0 to 24.05 GHz and secondary on the rest of the band. The AO40 satellite includes beacon, digital and analog transmitters in the vicinity of 24,048 GHz. The entire 24,0-24.25 GHz band is allocated for use by Industrial, Scientific and Medical (ISM) equipment. In addition to Amateur Radio, the 24,05-24,25 segment is allocated on secondary basis for radio location in the Private Land Mobile Radio Services and for Earth exploration satellites. The band is adjacent to frequencies authorized for satellite Earth exploration and for radio astronomy and Digital Electronic Message Service (DEMS)

UK FOUNDATION TICKET A HIT

Radio Society of Great Britain President Bob Whelan, G3PJT, says the new Foundation class entry-level amateur ticket in the UK is proving a huge success, especially among youth. Since the Foundation license went into effect on January 1, it's attracted 700 brand new amateurs in the UK, 250 of them under the age of 21, Whelan said. The balance of the 2500 Foundation licensees are those who upgraded their VHF-only privileges to gain the limited access HF the Foundation ticket offers

"The interesting thing is that we're getting a very good response from schools, Scouts, Guides and all those young people's organizations," Whelan said " and it looks to us like, for the first time, it's going to change around the fortunes for Amateur Radio in the UK."

The Foundation license has made the HF bands much more accessible to newcomers as well as Class B VHF-only "no code" licensees. To comply with the current international Radio Regulations, applicants demonstrate Morse proficiency by completing what is called a "Morse assessment." Class B licensees need

only complete the Morse assessment to qualify for the Foundation license. Applicants work with a Morse tutor for the assessment, and there is no Morse speed requirement.

Those taking the assessment get a copy of the Morse alphabet and “coding” and “decoding” information sheets. To complete the assessment, applicants must receive a text of up to 30 characters in QSO format. They may even write down the Morse elements and decode them later using the information sheets. The sending assessment requires sending a prepared text in a format similar to the receiving assessment’s. The RSGB says the entire Morse code assessment takes about 30 minutes.

Holders of the Foundation ticket gain access to most amateur bands from 136kHz though 440MHz– with the notable exception of 10 meters– using 10W output using only commercially manufactured equipment or “properly designed” commercial kits.

SARLNEWS thanks all contributors, individuals, clubs and other organizations for contributions to this bulletin and all stations that so reliably relay the bulletins.

This bulletin was compiled by Gustav,ZS6BWN and read by.....fromas a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750 and 7082 kHz and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz. ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

At noon on Sundays the SARL President s net is on the air on 7082 kHz.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us.

Goodbye everyone.